

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

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SUBJECT Medical Services in Canton

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1. In mid-October 1953 the Canton Sanitary Bureau called physicians in the city to a meeting at which the bureau announced the abolishment of a previous regulation that had restricted the organization of medical offices by physicians and had prohibited the division of business profits among partners. The previous regulation had required physicians to reinvest all of their profits in medical equipment. As a result, privately-owned medical offices in Canton had closed down and patients were waiting in queues, sometimes for several days, for treatment in the public hospitals. The new regulation, in order to meet the medical requirements of the people, allowed groups of physicians of more than four to establish private medical offices.
2. In November 1953, physicians in Canton were still cautious about setting up new medical offices because they suspected that the Communist regulations were apt to be changed and because they feared their offices would be amalgamated or taken over by the government once they were established. No physicians had applied for the establishment of a joint medical office, and the government was unable to expand the facilities of the public hospitals because of limited funds. Hence the problem of medical treatment for the people of Canton remained unsolved.

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